Subject: MA + CA private gold pieces

Lawrence, G. Alfred, Dr.
[64 W 56th St.]

1926

DR. G. ALFRED LAWRENCE
64 WEST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

TEL. 2714 CIRCLE

HOURS: AFTERNOONS FROM 2, BY APPOINTMENT

Jan. 14 1926

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator Numismatic Society,
156 St. & B'way.

My dear Mr. Wood,

As a Life Fellow of the American Numismatic Society I am writing to you for information regarding the Mass. & California 1849 Private Gold. According to Adams there are only two known specimens - one in the Philadelphia Mint weighing (I think) about 115 grains & one in the Newcomb collection - the latter purchased from Mr. Hubbard from the California Pioneer Collection.

I have a specimen offered to me at a very high figure by a well known numismatist who absolutely guarantees the same & states it

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was found among the effects of an old lady who died recently in Mass.

Mr. Wayte Raymond tells me there is a counterfeit of this piece. This specimen I have is approximately 10 grains heavier than the specimen in the Philadelphia mint but this numismatist tells me such a variation is not uncommon.

Can you give me any information as to the weight & description of this counterfeit piece or as to this special issue?

I am sorry that I have been unable to attend meetings of the Numismatic Society in recent years.

Very sincerely,
G. Alfred Lawrence

January 15th, 1926

Dr. G. Alfred Lawrence
64 West 56th Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

I fear I cannot help you out very much on your Massachusetts and California private gold piece. My understanding is, that they were all patterns, as the Company never really got a good start in issuing money. Also, I think that they have been found in silver and copper, etc. and I think from several different dies. I have never heard of a counterfeit of this, but it doesn't necessarily follow that there is none. As it presumably did not get out of the experimental stage, a slight difference in weight would not be unusual.

Why not write to Edgar H. Adams, Bayville, N.Y. as he ought to know as much as anyone about the matter?

Very truly yours,

Curator